AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A test strip for collecting bodily fluid from an incision in the skin, comprising:

a body having a first end, a second end, a top surface, and a bottom surface, ~~and an aperture between the first and second ends and extending from the top surface to the bottom surface,~~ said body defining a sampling passageway including an inlet opening ~~communicating with the aperture~~; and

a sealing member on the bottom surface ~~surrounding the aperture~~ and positioned to contact and seal with the skin when said body is pressed against the skin.

2. (Original) The test strip of claim 1 in which said sealing member includes a hydrophobic surface.

3. (Original) The test strip of claim 1 in which said sealing member is deformable upon pressing against the skin.

4. (Original) The test strip of claim 1 in which said body further includes a recessed surface extending between the inlet opening and the bottom surface.

5. (Original) The test strip of claim 4 in which the recessed surface extends at an obtuse angle from the bottom surface to the inlet opening.

6. (Original) The test strip of claim 5 in which the obtuse angle is from about 100 degrees to about 150 degrees.

7. (Currently amended) ~~A test strip for collecting bodily fluid from an incision in the skin, comprising:~~

~~a body having a first end, a second end, a top surface, a bottom surface, and an end edge, said body defining a sampling passageway including an inlet opening communicating with the end edge at a location spaced from the bottom surface; and~~

~~a sealing member on the bottom surface aligned with the inlet opening and positioned to contact and seal with the skin when said body is pressed against the skin~~

The test strip of claim 1, wherein:

the body has an end edge; and

the inlet opening communicates with the end edge at a location spaced from the bottom surface.

8. (Original) The test strip of claim 7 in which said body further includes first and second side edges extending from the first end to the second end, said sealing member extending from the first side edge to the second side edge.

Claims 11-13 (Canceled).

14. (Currently amended) A test strip for collecting bodily fluid from an incision in the skin, comprising:

a body having a first end, a second end, a top surface, a bottom surface~~, and an aperture between the first and second ends and extending from the top surface to the bottom surface~~, said body defining a sampling passageway including an inlet opening ~~communicating with the aperture~~, said body further including a recessed surface extending between the inlet opening and the bottom surface.

15. (Original) The test strip of claim 14 in which the recessed surface extends at an obtuse angle from the bottom surface to the inlet opening.

16. (Original) The test strip of claim 15 in which the obtuse angle is from about 100 degrees to about 150 degrees.

17. (Original) The test strip of claim 14 in which the inlet opening is spaced from the top surface.

18. (Currently amended) ~~A test strip for collecting bodily fluid from an incision in the skin, comprising:~~

~~a body having a first end, a second end, a top surface, a bottom surface, an end edge, and a recessed surface, said body defining a sampling passageway including an inlet opening communicating with at least one of the end edge and the recessed surface, the recessed surface extending between the inlet opening and the bottom surface~~

The test strip of claim 14, wherein:

the body has an end edge; and

the inlet opening communicates with at least one of the end edge and the recessed surface.

Claims 19-20

21. (Original) The test strip of claim 18 in which the portion of the bottom surface adjacent to the sampling surface is hydrophobic.

22. (Original) The test strip of claim 18 and which further includes a sealing member on the bottom surface aligned with the inlet opening and positioned to contact and seal with the skin when said body is pressed against the skin.

23. (Original) The test strip of claim 22 in which said body further includes first and second side edges extending from the first end to the second end, said sealing member extending from the first side edge to the second side edge.

Claims 24-30 (Canceled).

31. (New) The test strip of claim 1, wherein:

the body defines an aperture between the first and second ends, the aperture extending from the top surface to the bottom surface;

the inlet opening communicates with the aperture; and

the sealing member on the bottom surface surrounds the aperture.

32. (New) The test strip of claim 14, wherein:

the body defines an aperture between the first and second ends, the aperture extending from the top surface to the bottom surface; and

the inlet opening communicates with the aperture.

33. (New) A sampling system, comprising:

a lancing device including a housing and a lancet driver with a lancet disposed in the housing for lancing an incision in skin, the housing including a skin contacting surface where the lancing device contacts the skin during lancing;

a test strip loaded in the lancing device to analyze body fluid from the incision, the test strip including

a test area configured to analyze the body fluid,

a sampling passageway with an inlet opening for transporting the body fluid from the incision to the test area,

a bottom surface that faces the skin when the test strip is received in the test strip slot, and

a sealing member projecting outwardly from the bottom surface of the test strip proximal the inlet opening and positioned to seal with the skin when the test strip is pressed against the skin to retain the body fluid at the inlet opening; and

wherein the test strip with the sealing member is configured to be unloaded from the lancing device as a single disposable unit.

34. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein:

the test strip includes an end edge; and

the inlet opening is defined in the end edge.

35. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein:

the test strip defines an aperture;

the lancet is positioned to extend through the aperture in the test strip during lancing;

the inlet opening communicates with the aperture; and

the sealing member surrounds the aperture on the bottom surface of the test strip.

36. (New) The system of claim 35, wherein:

the test strip has a recessed surface extending between the inlet opening and the bottom surface; and

the recessed surface has a frustoconical shape.

37. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein the sealing member has a hydrophobic surface.

38. (New) The test strip of claim 33, wherein the sealing member is deformable upon pressing against the skin.

39. (New) The test strip of claim 33, wherein the test strip has a recessed surface extending between the inlet opening and the bottom surface.

40. (New) A sampling system, comprising:

a lancing device including a housing and a lancet driver with a lancet disposed in the housing for lancing an incision in skin, the housing including a skin contacting surface where the lancing device contacts the skin during lancing; and

a test strip loaded in the lancing device to analyze body fluid from the incision, the test strip including

a test area configured to analyze the body fluid,

a sampling passageway with an inlet opening for transporting the body fluid from the incision to the test area,

a bottom surface that faces the skin when the test strip is received in the test strip slot, and

the test strip having a recessed surface extending between the inlet opening and the bottom surface to inhibit contact of the body fluid on the skin with the bottom surface of the test strip; and

wherein the test strip with the recessed surface is configured to be unloaded from the lancing device as a single disposable unit.

41. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein:

the test strip includes an end edge; and

the inlet opening is defined in the end edge.

42. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein:

the test strip defines an aperture;

the lancet is positioned to extend through the aperture in the test strip during lancing;

the inlet opening communicates with the aperture; and

the recessed surface has a frustoconical shape.

43. (New) A method, comprising:

loading a test strip into a lancing device that includes a lancet coupled to a lancet driver, wherein the test strip includes a sampling passageway with an inlet opening that is in fluid communication with a test area of the test strip and a sealing member that projects outwardly from a bottom surface of the test strip proximal the inlet opening;

placing the lancing device against skin;

lancing an incision in the skin with the lancet;

forming a fluid tight seal between the sealing member and the skin by pressing the sealing member of the test strip against the skin;

drawing the body fluid from the incision into the inlet opening;

analyzing the body fluid with the test area of the test strip; and

disposing the sealing member of the test strip by unloading the test strip from the lancing device.

44. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein:

the test strip defines an aperture in which the inlet opening opens;

the sealing member surrounds the aperture on the bottom surface; and

said lancing the incision includes extending the lancet through the aperture.

45. (New) The method of claim 43, further comprising:

wherein the test strip has a recessed surface extending between the inlet opening and the bottom surface; and

inhibiting contact of the body fluid on the skin to the bottom surface of the test strip with the recessed surface.

46. (New) A method, comprising:

loading a test strip into a lancing device that includes a lancet coupled to a lancet driver, wherein the test strip includes a sampling passageway with an inlet opening that is in fluid communication with a test area of the test strip and a bottom surface, wherein the test strip has a recessed surface that extends between the inlet opening and the bottom surface;

placing the lancing device against skin;

lancing an incision in the skin with the lancet;

directing body fluid from the incision to the inlet opening by inhibiting contact of the body fluid to the test strip with the recessed surface;

drawing the body fluid from the incision into the inlet opening;

analyzing the body fluid with the test area of the test strip; and

disposing of the test strip with the recessed surface by unloading the test strip from the lancing device.

47. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein:

the test strip defines an aperture in which the inlet opening opens; and

said lancing the incision includes extending the lancet through the aperture.